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## ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL, 1896.

THE Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, the 9th instant, at twelve o'clock, M.; the President, CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, LL.D., in the chair.

The record of the last stated meeting was read and approved; and the list of donors to the Library was read by the Librarian, who said that the records of the New South Church, consisting of nineteen volumes, deposited by the proprietors of that church with the Historical Society on November 11, 1869, and seven other volumes of the same records deposited on November 12, 1874, had been transferred to the keeping of the City Clerk of Boston; and a receipt had been given for the books by that officer. This action was taken in accordance with a vote of the Council, passed on March 12, in order to conform to the provisions of the Public Statutes, chapter 37, section 15, relating to public records.

The Recording Secretary, in behalf of Samuel Eliot, LL.D., who was unavoidably absent, communicated the memoir of the late Martin Brimmer, which Mr. Eliot had been appointed to prepare for publication in the Proceedings.

The Hon. James M. Barker, of Pittsfield, was elected a Resident Member.

Dr. SAMUEL A. GREEN communicated the following paper by title:—

*An Early Book-catalogue printed in Boston, with other Bibliographical Matter.*

Among the books of the Prince Library, formerly in the keeping of this Society for more than half a century, but now in the possession of the Boston Public Library, is a pamphlet bound up together with a Catalogue of Harvard College (1723).<sup>1</sup> It contains a list of books previously belonging to

<sup>1</sup> According to this Catalogue there was in the College Library at that time an edition of "Shakespear's Plays" (London, 1709), in six volumes.

a New England minister, and offered for sale by a bookseller in Boston more than two hundred years ago. Considerable interest attaches to the pamphlet from the fact that probably it is the earliest instance in New England of a printed catalogue of books advertised for sale. About 1,000 titles, mostly in Latin, are given; and of these perhaps 200 are in English, which include not more than six or eight American ones. The books are arranged in the pamphlet both by subjects and sizes (folios, quartos, etc.), but without date or place of publication; and the general character of the works is furnished by the titlepage, of which a fac-simile is given below.

Presumably the following bore American imprints:—

“A Psalm Book”; “A New England Confession of Faith”; “Mather’s Mystery of Christ”; “Higginson’s Legacy of Peace”; “The Shorter Catechism with Exposition upon the same”; “Hubbard’s benefit of a well Ordered Conversation”; and perhaps a few others.

In Part I. of the Brinley catalogue of books which were sold in New York, on March 10–15, 1879, title No. 1669 is a catalogue of the Rev. Ebenezer Pemberton’s library advertised to be sold by auction in Boston, on July 2, 1717; and between quotation marks it is said in a note to be “perhaps the first instance in New England of a printed catalogue of Books at auction,” though no authority is given for the quoted paragraph. It will be noticed in the case of the Pemberton library that the sale was by auction, while in the other case the books were sold over the counter. Keeping in mind this difference in the manner of selling the two libraries, the statement may be correct.

The following is an exact reproduction of the titlepage of the pamphlet, and with it is given a collation of the same:—

THE  
LIBRARY  
OF

The Late Reverend and Learned  
Mr. Samuel Lee.

CONTAINING

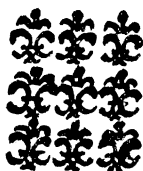
A Choice Variety of Books upon all Subjects; particularly, Commentaries on the Bible; Bodies of Divinity. The Works as well of the Ancient, as of the Modern Divines; Treatises on the Mathematicks, in all Parts: History, Antiquities; Natural Philosophy Physick, and Chymistry; With Grammar and School-Books

With many more Choice Books not mentioned in this Catalogue.

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Exposed at the most Easy Rates, to Sale, By Duncan Cambell, Book-seller at the Dock-head over-against the Conduit.

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*Boston* Printed for Duncan Cambell Book-seller at the Dock-head over-against the Conduit. 1693.

Mr B Green says - This was Print by his Brother Samuel's  
Letter, in Boston

Titlepage, *verso* blank ; 1, 2, "Latin Folio's Divinity" ; 2, 3, "Quarto's Latin" ; 3, 4, "Octavo's Latin" ; 4, 5, "English Quarto's Divinity" ; 5, 6, "Divinity English Octavo's" ; 6, "Physical Books Folio," "Physical Books in Quarto" ; 6, 7, "Physical Books in Octavo Latin" ; 7, 8, "Philosophy Folio's" ; 8, "Philosophy Quarto's Latin," "Philosophy in Octavo" ; 8, 9, "Mathematical, Astrological and Astronomical Folio's Latin" ; 9, "Quartos," "English," "Astronomy English Quarto's" ; 9, 10, "History Folio Latin" ; 10, "Histories in Folio English" ; 11, "Histories in Octavo English," "Histories in Quarto Latin" ; 11, 12, "Histories in Octavo Latin" ; 12, "School Authors in Folio," "School Authors in Quarto," "School Authors in Octavo" ; 12, 13, "Juris Prudentia Libr." ; 13, "Misellanie Beoks" ; 13, 14, "Box 21 Lat: Oct." ; 14-16, "Box 22 Latin Octavo's." Headlines as follows:—2, "Divinity Latin Folio's and Quart's" ; 3, "Divinity Quarto's Latin" ; 4, "Divinity English Folio's and Quarto's" ; 5, "Divinity English Quarto's and Octavo's" ; 6, "Divinity Quarto's English & Physical Books in Folio & Quarto Lat." ; 7, "Phisick Books Latin Octavo, and Philosophy Folio" ; 8, "Philosophy Quarto & Octavo Gosmograh: and Geograph. Folio" ; 9, "Mathematical, Astrological, Astronomical, Folio's, Quarto's Latin" ; 10, "History Latin and English. Folio" ; 11, "Histories Octavo English. Histories Quarto and Octavo Latin" ; 12, "Histories in Octavo Latin, School Authors Folio's & Quarto's Latin" ; 13, "Miscelany Books Latin Octavo's" ; 14-16, "Latin Octavo's."


The border-pieces used on the titlepage above the imprint are similar to those often seen in the issues of Green's press, whether coming from the father in Cambridge, or from either of the sons in Boston ; but very rarely seen in the issues of other printers, such as Pierce, Harris, or Allen. Under the imprint, near the bottom of the page, in Mr. Prince's well-known handwriting, appears the following: "Mr B Green says—This was Prind by his Broth Samuel's Letter, in Boston." Bartholomew Green was a printer, as well as his brother Samuel, who died in July, 1690. Probably the meaning of the sentence is that Bartholomew using his brother's type printed the catalogue, as at the date of its publication he had a press in Boston. It is interesting to note the use of the word "letter" in the sense of "type," which was not uncommon in those early times. At the end of an Almanac for 1682, belonging to this Society, Chief-Justice Sewall has written: "The last half Sheet was Printed w<sup>th</sup> my Letters,

at Boston. S. S." During that period he had the official management of the printing-press in Boston, having been duly appointed by the General Court. The last four leaves of the Almanac, or half signature, are printed with a different font of type from the other pages, which explains Sewall's memorandum.

The Reverend Samuel Lee, the former owner of the library, was a native of London, where he was born in the year 1625. He was educated at Wadham College, Oxford, and was a Fellow in the same college, and later a Proctor in the University. For some years he was settled as the minister of an independent church at Newington Green, near London. During the summer of 1686 he came to New England in order that he might more freely exercise the functions of his office in accordance with his own sense of duty; and during the spring of the next year he was settled over the church at Bristol, Rhode Island. Here he remained for four years, when with his family he set sail from Boston for his native land. After a stormy voyage the vessel was captured by a French privateer near the coast of Ireland, when the passengers were taken to St. Malo, in France. While his family was allowed to proceed thence to London, he was held as a captive, and died in prison some time during the month of December, 1691.

In his *Magnalia* (Book III. page 223), Cotton Mather speaks warmly in praise of Mr. Lee, and says of him that "hardly ever a more *Universally Learned* Person trod the *American Strand*." Two sermons preached by Mr. Lee at Bristol, on October 7, 1687, were printed in Boston soon after his death; and one of them was "Accompany'd with Preparatory Meditations, upon the Day of Judgement," by Dr. Mather. Other works by him were also published in Boston, both before and since his death.

Book-catalogues printed in New England before the Revolution are now rare, but references to them are often found in the newspapers of that period. The following advertisement, taken from "The New-England Courant" (Boston), September 28, 1724, is an instance in point:—

 The Library of the Reverend and Learned John Leveret, late President of Harvard College in Cambridge, being a fine Collection of

very valuable Books of Divinity, Philosophy, Law, &c. is to be sold by Auction in Boston, the — Day of October next. The Catalogue will be printed as soon as possible, and given out by S. Gerrish and D. Henschman, Booksellers, near the Brick Meeting-House in Cornhill.

The four following advertisements are taken from “The New-England Weekly Journal” (Boston) of the respective dates, as given at the end of each one:—

On Thursday next the 14th. Instant will be Sold by publick Vendue at the Royal Exchange Tavern, a Choice and Valuable Collection of Books printed Catalogues with the Conditions of Sale, may be had at Mr. Eliot’s Shop.

November 11, 1728.

A Collection of very valuable BOOKS, English, French, Latin, &c. To be Sold by Vendue at the Royal Exchange in Boston, on Thursday next the 23d Instant, at Three a Clock, P. M. The Books may be seen the Day before the Sale at the same Place, where Catalogues may be had gratis, as also at Mr. Benj Elliot’s Shop in King-street.

January 20, 1729.

To be Sold by Vendue, at the House of Thomas Fleet, at the Sign of the Heart and Crown in Cornhill, Boston, a good Collection of BOOKS, consisting of Divinity, Philosophy, Classical Learning, &c. The Sale of which is design’d to begin on Wednesday the 7th of April next, at 4 P. M Printed Catalogues may be had at Mr. Henschman’s Shop, and at the Place of Sale, where the Books may be seen, three Days before the Auction begins.

March 29, 1731.

There is just Arrived from London, a Large Collection of Valuable & Curious Books, Consisting of most Faculties, and in several Languages. Catalogues may be had at Messieurs Henschman and Hancock’s Shops (Booksellers in Boston) against Thursday next.

N. B. The Books are mostly New, and in good Condition, and will be Sold very Cheap.

June 21, 1731.

Another instance is found in “The Massachusetts Gazette : and the Boston Weekly News-Letter,” April 8, 1773, as follows : —

On *Wednesday 5th May*,  
 At NINE o'Clock in the Morning,  
 WILL be Sold by PUBLIC VENDUE, at the  
 Auction-Room in Queen-street,  
 A very large and valuable  
 Collection of BOOKS,  
 being the Library of a Gentleman deceas'd.  
 Printed Catalogues will be delivered in Season  
 by J. Russell, Auctioneer.

Still another is found in "The Boston-Gazette, and Country Journal," Supplement, May 17, 1773, as follows: —

*The LIBRARY of*  
 SIR FRANCIS BERNARD,

CONSISTING of a very large and valuable Collection of BOOKS, will be sold VERY CHEAP at private Sale, at the Shop lately occupied by Mr. Fleeming, opposite the South Door of the Town House, from Monday the 24th to Friday the 28th Instant, inclusive. Gentlemen who may incline to purchase, are desired to apply within that Time, as the Sale will not be continued longer.

CATALOGUES may be had of Edes and Gill.

These extracts from the advertising columns of early newspapers — and they are by no means exhaustive — show that printed catalogues for the sale of books at that period were common; but specimens of them to-day are very rarely found.

There is on the shelves of the Historical Society a copy of "A Catalogue of Mein's Circulating Library; consisting of above Twelve Hundred Volumes, in most Branches of polite Literature, Arts and Sciences" (pp. 57), which was printed in the year 1765. Among all the books mentioned in the catalogue there is only one work bearing an American imprint, viz., "The American Magazine," published in Boston, 1743-1745. It is interesting to note that in the list there is a copy of "Shakespear's Works" (London, 1762) in eight volumes. The proprietor of the Circulating Library was "John Mein, Bookseller, at the London Book-store, Second Door above the British Coffee-House, North-side of King-Street, Boston." He



was a Scotchman by birth, and had come to New England in the autumn of 1764. Soon afterward he became associated in business with another Scotchman, John Fleming, a printer by trade, whose name is sometimes written Fleeming; and in connection with their other affairs Mein published "The Boston Chronicle," which Fleming printed.

In the Fourth Part of the Brinley catalogue of books sold in New York, on November 15-18, 1886, title No. 8024 is a bookseller's catalogue (pp. 24) issued during the last century by T. Cox, Boston, who discontinued his business in 1744. Without doubt the pamphlet was printed some years before that date.

Mr. A. C. GOODELL, JR., said : —

Mr. President, I hold in my hand an interesting paper from that rich repository, the Winthrop Papers, which, with the permission of the owner, Mr. Robert C. Winthrop, Jr., I offer to the Society. Before I sit down, I shall move to have it referred to a committee. The paper appears to be an index, for private use, to leading subjects of legislation in the lost volume of Colony Laws which our associate Mr. Whitmore has so cleverly restored in his essay accompanying his reprint of the edition of 1660, — the finest piece of critical, historical reconstruction from scattered hints and fragments that has ever been attempted, in this country at least.

The index, which Mr. Winthrop supposed to be a fragment, proves to be complete, although it refers only to particular topics and not to every ordinance. It is in the handwriting of John Richards, who was for a number of years a leading member of the Massachusetts General Court and in 1680 Speaker. In 1682 he was joint Agent to England with Joseph Dudley. He was one of the first bench of justices of the Superior Court of Judicature of the Province, on which he continued until his death; and he was also one of the commissioners of oyer and terminer appointed to try the cases of witchcraft at Salem. In this capacity he was addressed by Cotton Mather in a memorable letter in which that clergyman directed the judges how to proceed judicially in the detection of witchcraft and conviction of the accused.

Richards was born in England, the son of Thomas, one of

the founders of Dorchester. After a sojourn at the eastward, and subsequently for a brief period in England, he came to Boston. He was a member of the Artillery Company in 1644, ensign in 1665, and lieutenant in 1667. In the militia he was successively lieutenant, captain, and major. In 1681 he was chosen assistant, and held that office until the presidency of Dudley. He was one of the councillors named in the Province Charter, and was elected the next year; but before the expiration of his term he died, — April 2, 1694.

On the 3rd of May, 1654, he married Elizabeth, daughter of Capt. Thomas Hawkins, and widow of Adam Winthrop. She died November 1, 1691; and on the 2nd of September, 1692, he married Ann, daughter of Governor John Winthrop, of Connecticut. He left no posterity.

This paper, while bearing indubitable evidence of its reference to the first edition of the Colony Laws, does not clearly indicate, at least upon the examination I have been able to make, whether it refers to the original manuscript volumes or to the first printed edition. No man living is more competent to settle this point than our learned and ingenious associate, Mr. Whitmore, and I move that the paper be referred to him, to report upon at some future meeting.

The motion of Mr. Goodell was adopted by a unanimous vote.

REV. EDWARD G. PORTER communicated some notes on the principal building of the McLean Asylum at Somerville, as follows: —

*Demolition of the McLean Asylum at Somerville.*

Mr. President, — Whoever has been out over the Lowell Railroad lately must have noticed the forlorn and dismantled appearance of the McLean Asylum at Somerville. We have been so long accustomed to enjoy the sight of that fine group of buildings, and the noble park in which they stood, in such agreeable contrast to the railroad purlieus of East Cambridge, that the present spectacle is a rude shock to our sense of the fitness of things.

Thus, one by one, the natural beauties of our metropolis are giving way to the imperious demands of our commercial growth. Fort Hill had to go; Charlestown and the older parts

of Roxbury have lost their fine gardens and shade-trees; and now this well-known eminence just over the river must not only surrender its half-dozen large and well-built structures of brick and stone, its stately elms and its terraced gardens and orchards, but the hill itself is at once to be levelled to make room for a network of tracks and freight-yards.

We have no regrets for the asylum. Although it has been admirably quartered here for the greater part of a century, it has found a quieter site for its future needs in the ample demesne out among the Waverly oaks.

But the transformation of this picturesque remnant of an earlier time should not take place without some record of its history; for soon the fact that there ever was a hill there, and a great institution upon it, will be known to but very few of the busy throng that pass that way.

Until near the close of the last century it was a rather rough, open area, used for pasture and tillage, and was commonly called "Cobled Hill," as spelled in letters of that time. About 1791 the whole promontory — then a part of Charlestown — was bought by Joseph Barrell, a wealthy merchant of Boston, who had a fine house on Summer Street, with gardens extending back to Franklin Place. Being on intimate terms with Charles Bulfinch, with whom he had shared a commercial venture in the expedition of the ship "Columbia"<sup>1</sup> to open trade on the northwest coast, he engaged that young architect to prepare the designs for a large mansion to be erected on the brow of the hill, some fifty feet above tide-water.

It was Mr. Barrell's ambition to create an ideal country-seat, adorned with all the accessories of lawns, trees, gardens, terraces, greenhouses, fish-ponds, dove-cotes, poultry-yard, stable, coach-house, a well-stocked barn, and an attractive boat-house. And here he was able to carry out his magnificent plan. All the resources of Nature and Art were combined to make Pleasant Hill — as it was then called — the most complete and sumptuous residence in the suburbs. The choicest plants<sup>2</sup> were imported from Europe, and gardeners to take care of them. Elms and poplars lined the winding avenues in different directions. At one time the place was called

<sup>1</sup> See Proceedings for May, 1892; also "New England Magazine" for June, 1892.

<sup>2</sup> See Memorial History of Boston, IV. 636.

Poplar Grove. Trout and gold-fish were domesticated near a fountain by the summer-house at the foot of the garden.

Access to Boston was made easy by a barge with liveried boatmen, which the owner maintained for himself and his friends. There being no Craigie's Bridge at that time, it was necessary, in driving, to go around by Charlestown; or one could take the longer route by the colleges and through Brookline and Roxbury. Dr. Everett says he remembers hearing that Mr. Barrell often drove into town that way with his fine horses. That he had a good stable is evident from the fact that at the time of Washington's visit, shortly before, he was chosen, with Samuel Breck and Dr. Eustis, as a committee of the town to escort the President from Worcester to Boston; and these gentlemen furnished their own equipages for that occasion.<sup>1</sup>

The crowning feature of this fine estate was the elegant dwelling-house—74 by 42 feet—now in process of demolition. It was in Bulfinch's early style, taken from English models of the last century. The main part of the building had two equally imposing fronts; the eastern commanding a superb view over the garden and Charles River, and Boston with its many spires in plain sight. The western porch—for carriages—was supported by four Ionic columns, resting on massive square bases of Scotch granite. The steps leading up to the front door were of the same stone, as also the caps and sills and belt-course. A unique arrangement in the hall was a flying staircase, ascending at each end—32 feet long—and coming together at a landing in the centre, supported by four fluted posts, and again ascending three steps to another landing, and then diverging right and left to landings connecting with each wing of the house as well as the centre.

The swell eastern front formed an oval drawing-room, one story high, on the roof of which rested two Corinthian columns, 16 feet long, with pilasters against the house, supporting the upper roof covering the balcony.<sup>2</sup> The main building was three and a half stories high, and the wings originally had two stories.

<sup>1</sup> See Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society, I. lxvii. Address by the writer at the one hundredth anniversary of Washington's visit to Lexington.

<sup>2</sup> A good picture of this vine-clad front may be seen in the "New England Magazine" for November, 1890. Also a fine old engraving in the "History of the Massachusetts General Hospital."

The walls were thoroughly laid in brick ; and the timber of hewn pine, brought from the Kennebec, measures 12 by 12, and sometimes even 16 by 16, inches. In some cases, where the timbers were not long enough, ingenious splices were made with bolts and nuts, so that they were as rigid as the main timber. All the framing shows great care in providing against strains and for the support of weights.

The building has many other features not found in our modern houses. The floors are deadened by brick laid between floor joists, and an under floor laid over them. Back of the base boards are brick laid in mortar, forming what we should call fire-stops, but what may have been intended for rat-stops. The same precaution was taken where spaces were unused, back of partitions and around the big chimneys. And so perfect was this work that the contractors tell me that the usual signs of vermin in such an old house are totally absent.

All the inner partitions, not of brick, are of two-inch pine plank set tight together, and split hemlock laths fastened with hand-wrought threepenny nails, forming a stiff partition only four inches thick when plastered. The wood cornices and paneling of the principal rooms were finely carved.<sup>1</sup> The outside columns are remarkably well preserved, owing to the free use of white lead and oil in the joints when put together. As to the masonry, the workmanship was everywhere a solid mass, without a crevice. The building, as I examined it in partial ruin yesterday, reminded me somewhat of Kenilworth Castle or of some old Yorkshire Abbey.

Here Joseph Barrell lived until his death, October 13, 1804.<sup>2</sup> He always exercised a large hospitality, and was generous in allowing strangers to visit his charming grounds. His son-in-law, Benjamin Joy, sold this part of the estate in 1816 to the trustees of the Massachusetts General Hospital, who added another story to the mansion, and made it the residence of the Superintendent and other physicians. The neighboring buildings, north and south, with their graceful domes also show the hand of Bulfinch. There were two fine rows of elms near them, which were allowed to stand for a while, but they were

<sup>1</sup> All the best wood-work is to be transferred to the new country-seat of Mr. Francis Shaw in Wayland.

<sup>2</sup> He was buried at night, by his own request, in the family vault at King's Chapel.

cut down afterward at the suggestion of Dr. Wyman. It was remarked at the time that the Asylum buildings were erected to accommodate the trees, and then the trees were cut down to accommodate the buildings. But they are all disappearing now together; and soon there will be nothing left of Pleasant Hill.

Mr. JUSTIN WINSOR presented, in behalf of Miss Palfrey, of Cambridge, a small miniature of John Howard Payne, author of "Home, Sweet Home," which was for many years in possession of her father, the late Hon. John Gorham Palfrey. Accompanying the miniature was a lock of Payne's hair.

Incidental remarks on the various communications, and on some connected subjects, were made by the Hon. WILLIAM EVERETT, Messrs. WILLIAM S. APPLETON, and R. C. WINTHROP, JR., the PRESIDENT, the Hon. EDWARD L. PIERCE, and Rev. Dr. EDWARD E. HALE.

The regular business of the Annual Meeting was then taken up; and the Report of the Council, which had been drawn up by Rev. Dr. Edmund F. Slafter, who was detained from the meeting by illness, was read by Mr. HENRY W. HAYNES.

### *Report of the Council.*

During the past year the Society has held nine stated meetings, at which important historical documents have been presented, and communications, written and oral, have been made by our members. Most of these papers have been printed in our Proceedings. The value of diaries and letters, relating to current events, by intelligent and well-informed citizens in the colonial or later years of our Commonwealth, can hardly be overstated. They throw light and shade upon the current of our history that cannot be obtained from any other historical documents.

A new volume of our Proceedings has been issued, entitled Volume IX. of the Second Series, making the whole number issued, including the Index, thirty volumes. It contains portraits of the Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, of Mr. Edwin L. Bynner, Prof. Henry W. Torrey, Dr. Henry Wheatland, and Mr. Edward J. Lowell, deceased members of the Society. Included in this volume, in addition to important diaries and

letters, is a catalogue of all the American imprints in our Library, issued anterior to the close of the year 1700. This cannot fail to prove of great convenience to the historical student, as much of our history is scattered in bits here and there in these publications. It is greatly to be desired that some enterprising antiquary may be induced to complete this catalogue by bringing together, as an addendum to this work, all the colonial imprints of the same period not already in our archives.

Memoirs have been published, in this volume of our Proceedings, of our late President, the Rev. George Edward Ellis, D.D., by the Rev. Octavius B. Frothingham, and of Edward Bangs, LL.B., by Judge John Lowell.

A volume of Collections, being the fifty-eighth in our series, entitled Volume Eight, Sixth Series, has been published. It is an historical index to the Pickering Papers belonging to our Society, a collection left by the late Hon. Timothy Pickering, the distinguished statesman, whose life was largely spent in the public service of the United States. They are contained in 58 massive volumes, and relate to important matters with which he was personally connected. This index covers 580 pages royal octavo, together with an historical preface giving a full account of these papers. In it the subject of each of the papers is clearly but succinctly given, thus rendering the whole collection of the Pickering Papers, which may probably always remain in manuscript, nevertheless easily accessible to the historical student. This index is similar, though not on so extensive a scale, to the Calendars of the English state papers, whose great value and convenience are appreciated by the historical investigator.

The following gentlemen have become Resident Members of the Society during the year, viz.: Thomas Jefferson Coolidge, May 9, 1895; William Wallace Crapo, November 14, 1895; Francis Cabot Lowell, January 9, 1896; Granville Stanley Hall, February 13, 1896. Alexander Agassiz has been elected, but is absent from the country, and his acceptance has not been received.

Leslie Stephen, LL.D., of London, England, and President James B. Angell, LL.D., of the University of Michigan, have been received as Corresponding Members.

Seven members of the Society have died during the year.

The following is a list of their names, together with the names of those appointed to prepare memoirs of them to be published in our Proceedings:—

Leverett Saltonstall, died April 15, 1895. Memoir by Charles R. Codman.

Hamilton Andrews Hill, died April 27, 1895. Memoir by the Rev. Dr. Samuel E. Herrick.

Octavius Brooks Frothingham, died November 27, 1895. Memoir by Josiah P. Quincy.

William Steele Shurtleff, died January 14, 1896. Memoir by George S. Merriam.

Martin Brimmer, died January 14, 1896. Memoir by Dr. Samuel Eliot.

William Goodwin Russell, died February 6, 1896. Memoir by George O. Shattuck.

Benjamin Marston Watson, died February 19, 1896. Memoir by the Rev. Dr. Edward E. Hale.

We have to record the death of two Corresponding Members. Pierre Margry, of Paris, France, died May 27, 1894; but the notice of his death had not been received at our last Annual Meeting. He was born in Paris, December 9, 1818. In 1867 he published two volumes relating to discoveries by the French in America. He subsequently published his great work, relating to the same subject, entitled "*Mémoires et Documents*," contained in six royal octavo volumes of about six hundred pages each.

William Wetmore Story, D.C.L., died in Italy, October 7, 1895. He was born in Salem, Massachusetts, February 12, 1819. He graduated at Harvard College, and was admitted to the bar in Boston. He published several treatises on legal subjects, and three volumes of Reports of Cases tried in the United States Courts. After 1848 he resided in Rome in Italy. He is the author of numerous volumes in prose and verse. His life has been chiefly devoted to sculpture. Among his works may be mentioned a statue of his father, the late Justice Joseph Story, of George Peabody, of Josiah Quincy, of Edward Everett, of James Russell Lowell, and of Theodore Parker. Of ideal figures may be mentioned the Shepherd Boy, Little Red Riding-Hood, and Sappho. He left a wide fame both in literature and art.



The publications by members of the Society during the year have been as follows, viz. :—

The Journeyman's Retrospect. Speech of Charles Francis Adams at the Harvard Alumni Dinner, Commencement Day, June 26, 1895.

Abstracts of Early Woburn Deeds Recorded at Middlesex County Registry, 1649–1700. By Edward F. Johnson. With some Explanatory Notes.

Howland Holmes. By Edward G. Porter.

History of the United States from the Compromise of 1850. Vol. III. 1860–1862. By James Ford Rhodes.

Diocese of Massachusetts. The Enlargement of its Diocesan Library. Being the Twelfth Annual Report made to the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Massachusetts, held in Trinity Church, Boston, May 15 and 16, 1895. By the Rev. Edmund F. Slafter, D.D.

The Teaching of English Law at Universities. By James Bradley Thayer. Read at Detroit, August 27, 1895, as the Chairman's Address before the section on Legal Education of the American Bar Association.

A Report (26th) of the Record Commissioners of the City of Boston, containing the Boston Town Records, 1778–1783. By William H. Whitmore.

Eighteenth Report (1895) of Justin Winsor, Librarian of Harvard University.

The Harvard College Portrait of Washington Painted by Edward Savage. Reprinted from the Harvard Graduates' Magazine, 1895. By Justin Winsor.

The Mississippi Basin. The Struggle in America between England and France, 1697–1763. With full cartographical illustrations from contemporary sources. By Justin Winsor.

Massachusetts in the Army and Navy during the War of 1861–65. Prepared under the authority of the State by Thomas Wentworth Higginson, State Military and Naval Historian. Vol. II.

Monroe Doctrine. Speech of the Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge, of Massachusetts, in the Senate of the United States, December 30, 1895.

Old School Street, Boston. From the New England Magazine for April, 1895. By Henry F. Jenks.

Joan of Arc. By Francis C. Lowell.

The Peabody Museum of American Archæology and Ethnology. Report of Frederick W. Putnam, November 23, 1895.

The Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Consecration of Saint Paul's Church, Boston, Sunday, May 26, 1895. A Sermon by the Rt. Rev. William Lawrence, D.D., Bishop of Massachusetts.

Visions and Service. Fourteen Discourses delivered in College Chapels by William Lawrence, Bishop of Massachusetts, 1896.

Baccalaureate Sermon, Harvard College, Class of 1895. By William Lawrence, D.D. 1895.

Second Annual Address to the Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts, in Trinity Church, Boston, May 15, 1895. By the Rt. Rev. William Lawrence, D.D. Boston, 1895.

The above-named publications have been presented to the Society by their several authors.

On the sixth day of August, 1895, the Society purchased an estate of William O. Ruggles, being an unimproved lot of land in Boston at the corner of the Fenway and Boylston Street; containing ten thousand six hundred and four and three tenths square feet. On this property it is intended to erect a building for the occupation and uses of the Society. Its situation for this purpose is highly satisfactory to the Council, having abundant capacity for light, and as a corner lot, commanding on one side a view of the Park known as the Fens, and on the other Boylston Street, which at that point is of convenient and ample breadth. It is accessible by all the Back Bay and Cambridge surface cars, and at no distant day it will doubtless be in the centre of the population of Boston. The acquisition of this property may be regarded as particularly fortunate.

On the twenty-fourth day of September, 1895, the Society sold to Miss Ellen Upton for the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars the house and land numbered one hundred and ten Marlborough Street, Boston, the estate devised to the Society by its late President, the Rev. George E. Ellis, D.D. The avails of this sale are to be invested in the contemplated new building, an apartment in which is to be set apart as a memorial of Dr. Ellis.

On the twentieth day of December, 1895, the sum of thirty thousand dollars bequeathed to the Society by Dr. George E. Ellis was paid by his executor, George S. Hale, Esq. This sum is not to be invested in the new building, but to be kept as a separate fund, the income to be expended for the maintenance of that part of the building set apart as a memorial to our late President. To this sum has been added, as will appear from the Treasurer's account, about five hundred dollars, the avails of a sale of such articles bequeathed by Dr.

Ellis as could not be useful to the Society, making the whole property devised and bequeathed by our late President a little more than fifty-five thousand five hundred dollars, besides his library and some other articles of *virtu*, upon which no commercial value has been placed.

The estate numbered 30 Tremont Street, adjoining the King's Chapel burial-ground, now owned and occupied by the Society, has been offered for sale; and when a sale is effected, the Society will be in a condition to enter upon the construction of a new building on its recently acquired property already described.

Plans for a new building have been before the Council and a committee of the Society, but have not been fully matured and adopted.

EDMUND F. SLAFTER,  
*Member of the Council.*

The Report of the Treasurer and the Report of the Auditing Committee were presented in print, as follows:—

*Report of the Treasurer.*

In compliance with the requirements of the By-Laws, Chapter VII., Article 1, the Treasurer respectfully submits his Annual Report, made up to March 31, 1896.

The special funds held by him have been increased in number and amount by the receipt, Dec. 20, 1895, of the bequest of our late President, Dr. George E. Ellis. They are now fifteen in number, and are as follows:—

I. THE APPLETON FUND, which was created Nov. 18, 1854, by a gift to the Society, from Nathan Appleton, William Appleton, and Nathaniel I. Bowditch, trustees under the will of the late Samuel Appleton, of stocks of the appraised value of ten thousand dollars. These stocks were subsequently sold for \$12,203, at which sum the fund now stands. The income is applicable to "the procuring; preserving, preparation, and publication of historical papers."

II. THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL TRUST-FUND, which now stands, with the accumulated income, at \$10,000. This fund originated in a gift of two thousand dollars from the late Hon. David Sears, presented Oct. 15, 1855, and accepted by the Society Nov. 8, 1855. On Dec. 26, 1866, it was increased

by a gift of five hundred dollars from Mr. Sears, and another of the same amount from our late associate, Mr. Nathaniel Thayer. The income must be appropriated in accordance with the directions in Mr. Sears's declaration of trust in the printed Proceedings for November, 1855. The declaration contains also the following clause: "And when hereafter the accumulations of said fund — by its investments of income; by additions made to it; by gifts, bequests, or otherwise — shall amount to a sufficient sum, in aid of other means, to purchase or secure a suitable site for the library and halls of said Historical Society, or to enable said Society to appropriate and improve the whole of their present premises, — then, and in either of the cases, the said Trustees may, under a recorded vote of authority of the Society, draw out and receive the whole, or any part, of said accumulations of said fund, to be expended by them in the above-named purposes. . . . Provided always, that in no case whatever shall the original trust-sum be encroached upon or diminished."

III. THE DOWSE FUND, which was given to the Society by George Livermore and Eben. Dale, executors of the will of the late Thomas Dowse, April 9, 1857, for the "safe keeping" of the Dowse Library. It amounts to \$10,000.

IV. THE PEABODY FUND, which was presented by the late George Peabody, in a letter dated Jan. 1, 1867, and now stands at \$22,123. The income is available only for the publication and illustration of the Society's Proceedings and Memoirs, and for the preservation of the Society's Historical Portraits.

V. THE SAVAGE FUND, which was a bequest from the late Hon. James Savage, received in June, 1873, and now stands on the books at the sum of \$6,000. The income is to be used for the increase of the Society's Library.

VI. THE ERASTUS B. BIGELOW FUND, which was given in February, 1881, by Mrs. Helen Bigelow Merriman, in recognition of her father's interest in the work of the Society. The original sum was one thousand dollars; but the interest was added to the principal to bring the amount up to \$2,000, at which it now stands. There is no restriction as to the use to be made of this fund.

VII. THE WILLIAM WINTHROP FUND, which amounts to the sum of \$3,000, and was received Oct. 13, 1882, under the will of the late William Winthrop, for many years a Corre-

sponding Member of the Society. The income is to be applied "to the binding for better preservation of the valuable manuscripts and books appertaining to the Society."

VIII. THE RICHARD FROTHINGHAM FUND, which represents a gift to the Society, on the 23d of March, 1883, from the widow of our late Treasurer, of a certificate of twenty shares in the Union Stock Yard and Transit Co., of Chicago, of the par value of \$100 each, and of the stereotype plates of Mr. Frothingham's "Siege of Boston," "Life of Joseph Warren," and "Rise of the Republic." The fund stands on the Treasurer's books at \$3,000, exclusive of the copyright. There are no restrictions on the uses to which the income may be applied.

IX. THE GENERAL FUND, which now amounts to \$9,868.56. It represents the following gifts and payments to the Society:—

1. A gift of two thousand dollars from the residuary estate of the late MARY PRINCE TOWNSEND, by the executors of her will, William Minot and William Minot, Jr., in recognition of which, by a vote of the Society, passed June 13, 1861, the Treasurer was "directed to make and keep a special entry in his account books of this contribution as the donation of Miss Mary P. Townsend."

2. A legacy of two thousand dollars from the late HENRY HARRIS, received in July, 1867.

3. A legacy of one thousand dollars from the late GEORGE BEMIS, received in March, 1879.

4. A gift of one hundred dollars from the late RALPH WALDO EMERSON, received in April, 1881.

5. A legacy of one thousand dollars from the late WILLIAMS LATHAM, received in May, 1884.

6. A bequest of five shares in the Cincinnati Gas-Light and Coke Co. from the late GEORGE DEXTER, Recording Secretary from 1878 to 1883, received in June, 1884. This bequest for several years stood on the Treasurer's books at \$900, at which sum the shares were valued when the incomes arising from separate investments were all merged in one consolidated account. Besides the regular quarterly dividends there has been received up to the present time from the sale of subscription rights, etc., the sum of \$268.56, which has been added to the nominal amount of Mr. Dexter's bequest.

7. A legacy of one thousand dollars from the late EBENEZER ROCKWOOD HOAR, received in February, 1895.

8. Ten commutation fees of one hundred and fifty dollars each.

X. THE ANONYMOUS FUND, which originated in a gift of \$1,000 to the Society in April, 1887, communicated in a letter to the Treasurer printed in the Proceedings (2d series, vol. iii. pp. 277, 278). A further gift of \$250 was received from the same generous friend in April, 1888. The income up to the present time has been added to the principal. The fund now stands at \$1,941.29.

XI. THE WILLIAM AMORY FUND, which was a gift of \$3,000, under the will of our associate, the late WILLIAM AMORY, received Jan. 7, 1889. There are no restrictions on the uses to which the income may be applied. The income has been allowed to accumulate, with the view to the publication of a volume of Collections at some future period.

XII. THE LAWRENCE FUND, which was a gift of \$3,000, under the will of our associate, the younger ABBOTT LAWRENCE, received in June, 1894. The income is "to be expended in publishing the Collections and Proceedings" of the Society.

XIII. THE ROBERT C. WINTHROP FUND, which was a gift of \$5,000, under the will of our late associate, received in December, 1894. No restrictions were attached to this bequest; but by a vote of the Society passed Dec. 13, 1894, it was directed that the income "shall be expended for such purposes as the Council may from time to time direct."

XIV. THE WATERSTON PUBLISHING FUND, which was a gift of \$10,000, under the will of our late associate, the Rev. ROBERT C. WATERSTON, received in December, 1894. The income is to be used as a publishing fund, in accordance with the provisions of Mr. Waterston's will printed in the Proceedings (2d series, vol. viii. pp. 172, 173).

XV. THE ELLIS FUND, which originated in a bequest to the Society of \$30,000, by our late President, Dr. George E. Ellis. This sum was paid into the Treasury Dec. 20, 1895; and to it has been added the sum of \$574.71 received from the sale of various articles of personal property, also given to the Society by Dr. Ellis, which it was not thought desirable to keep, making the whole amount of the fund \$30,574.71. No

part of the original sum can be used for the purchase of other real estate in exchange for the real estate specifically devised by Dr. Ellis's will.

The Treasurer also holds a deposit book in the Five Cent Savings Bank for \$100 and interest, which is applicable to the care and preservation of the beautiful model of the Brattle Street Church, deposited with us in April, 1877.

It should not be forgotten that besides the gifts and bequests represented by these funds, which the Treasurer is required to take notice of in his Annual Report, numerous gifts have been made to the Society from time to time, and expended for the purchase of the real estate, or in promoting the objects for which the Society was organized. A detailed account of these gifts was included in the Annual Report of the Treasurer, dated March 31, 1887, printed in the Proceedings (2d series, vol. iii. pp. 291-296); and in the list of the givers there enumerated will be found the names of many honored associates, living or departed, and of other gentlemen, not members of the Society, who were interested in the promotion of historical studies. They gave liberally in the day of small things; and to them the Society is largely indebted for its present prosperity and usefulness.

Besides the bequest in money mentioned above, Dr. ELLIS by his will gave to the Society the dwelling-house No. 110 Marlborough Street, with substantially all its contents. In the exercise of the discretion which the Society was authorized to use, this house was sold for the sum of \$25,000, and the proceeds invested in the more eligible estate on the corner of the Fenway and Boylston Street. The full sum received from the sale has been entered on the Treasurer's books, to the credit of Ellis House, in perpetual memory of Dr. Ellis's gift.

The stock and bonds held by the Treasurer are as follows: \$10,000 in the five per cent mortgage bonds of the Chicago and West Michigan Railroad Co.; \$5,000 in the four per cent bonds of the Rio Grande Western Railroad Co.; \$5,000 in the four per cent bonds of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad Co.; \$5,000 in the five per cent gold bonds of the Cincinnati, Dayton, and Ironton Railroad Co.; \$5,000 in the four per cent general mortgage bonds of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fé Railroad Co.; and \$3,000 in the second four per cent bonds of the same corporation, received in exchange for

their income bonds for the same amount; \$11,000 in the five per cent collateral trust bonds of the Chicago Junction Railways and Union Stock Yard Co.; \$30,000 in the five per cent mortgage bonds of the Metropolitan Street Railway Co. of Kansas City; \$6,000 in the four and one half per cent bonds of the Boston and Maine Railroad Co.; fifty shares in the Merchants' National Bank of Boston; fifty shares in the State National Bank of Boston; fifty shares in the National Bank of Commerce of Boston; fifty shares in the National Union Bank of Boston; fifty shares in the Columbian National Bank of Boston; twenty-five shares in the Second National Bank of Boston; thirty-five shares in the Boston and Albany Railroad Co.; twenty-five shares in the Old Colony Railroad Co.; five shares in the Cincinnati Gas Light and Coke Co.; three shares in the Boston Real Estate Trust (of the par value of \$1,000); five shares in the State Street Exchange; and two shares in the Pacific Mills (of the par value of \$1,000).

The following abstracts and the trial balance show the present condition of the several accounts:—

## CASH ACCOUNT.

		DEBITS.
1895.		
March 30.	To balance on hand . . . . .	\$2,780.04
1896.		
March 31.	„ receipts as follows:—	
	General Account . . . . .	2,239.60
	Consolidated Income . . . . .	4,404.48
	Income of Richard Frothingham Fund . . . . .	85.40
	Income of Ellis Fund . . . . .	38.57
	Bequest of George E. Ellis . . . . .	30,000.00
	Sale of Ellis House . . . . .	25,000.00
	Sale of Ellis personal property . . . . .	574.71
	General Fund . . . . .	600.00
	Investments . . . . .	2,275.00
	Notes Payable . . . . .	35,000.00
		<u>\$102,947.80</u>
March 31.	To balance brought down . . . . .	\$1,442.91



1896.

## CREDITS.

March 31. By payments as follows:—

Investments . . . . .	\$30,613.00
Income of Ellis Fund . . . . .	810.39
Income of Savage Fund . . . . .	143.37
Income of William Winthrop Fund . . . . .	136.35
Income of Appleton Fund . . . . .	1,766.13
Real Estate . . . . .	23,500.00
Notes Payable . . . . .	35,000.00
General Account . . . . .	9,535.65
„ balance on hand . . . . .	1,442.91

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\$102,947.86

## GENERAL ACCOUNT.

1896.

## DEBITS.

March 31. To sundry charges and payments:—

Salaries of Librarian's Assistants . . . . .	\$2,940.00
Printing and binding . . . . .	1,875.58
Stationery and postage . . . . .	77.85
Fuel and light . . . . .	186.25
Care of fire, etc. . . . .	370.17
Miscellaneous expenses and repairs . . . . .	183.96
Editing publications of the Society . . . . .	2,000.00
Interest on mortgage and notes . . . . .	811.25
Examination of title . . . . .	153.25
City Tax, for 1895, on Fenway estate . . . . .	455.68
Accrued interest on bonds bought . . . . .	481.66

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\$9,535.65

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March 31. By balance brought down . . . . . \$4,029.55

1895.

## CREDITS.

March 30. By balance brought forward . . . . . \$2,048.31

1896.

March 31. „ sundry receipts:—

Rent of Building . . . . .	150.00
Interest . . . . .	46.95
Income of Dowse Fund . . . . .	463.36
Income of General Fund . . . . .	754.83
Admission Fees . . . . .	75.00
Assessments . . . . .	960.00
Sales of publications . . . . .	1,007.65
„ balance carried forward . . . . .	4,029.55

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\$9,535.65

*Income of Appleton Fund.*

1896.	DEBITS.	
March 31.	To amount paid for binding and printing . . . . .	\$1,766.18
	„ balance carried forward . . . . .	1,093.04
		<u>\$2,859.17</u>
1895.	CREDITS.	
March 30.	By balance brought forward . . . . .	\$2,293.73
1896.		
March 31.	„ proportion of consolidated income . . . . .	565.44
		<u>\$2,859.17</u>
March 31.	By balance brought down . . . . .	\$1,093.04

*Income of William Winthrop Fund.*

1896.	DEBITS.	
March 31.	To amount paid for binding . . . . .	\$136.35
	„ balance carried forward . . . . .	159.28
		<u>\$295.63</u>
1895.	CREDITS.	
March 30.	By balance brought forward . . . . .	\$156.62
1896.		
March 31.	„ proportion of consolidated income . . . . .	139.01
		<u>\$295.63</u>
March 31.	By balance brought down . . . . .	\$159.28

*Income of Massachusetts Historical Trust-Fund.*

1895.	CREDITS.	
March 30.	By balance brought forward . . . . .	\$1,260.96
1896.		
March 31.	„ proportion of consolidated income . . . . .	463.86
		<u>\$1,724.32</u>
March 31.	By amount brought down . . . . .	\$1,724.32

*Income of Douse Fund.*

1896.	DEBITS.	
March 31.	To amount placed to credit of General Account . . . . .	<u>\$463.36</u>
1896.	CREDITS.	
March 31.	By proportion of consolidated income . . . . .	<u>\$463.36</u>

*Income of Richard Frothingham Fund.*

DEBITS.	
1895.	
March 30.	To balance brought forward . . . . . \$503.68
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1896.	
March 31.	To balance brought down . . . . . \$279.27
 CREDITS.	
1896.	
March 31.	By copyright received . . . . . 85.40
	„ proportion of consolidated income . . . . . 139.01
	„ balance carried forward . . . . . 279.27
	<u>\$503.68</u>

*Income of Peabody Fund.*

DEBITS.	
1895.	
March 30.	To balance brought forward . . . . . \$1,078.63
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1896.	
March 31.	To balance brought down . . . . . \$53.51
 CREDITS.	
1896.	
March 31.	By proportion of consolidated income . . . . . \$1,025.12
	„ balance carried forward . . . . . 53.51
	<u>\$1,078.63</u>

*Income of Savage Fund.*

DEBITS.	
1895.	
March 30.	To balance brought forward . . . . . \$211.40
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1896.	
March 31.	„ amount paid for books . . . . . 143.37
	<u>\$354.77</u>
March 31.	To balance brought down . . . . . \$76.75
 CREDITS.	
1896.	
March 31.	By proportion of consolidated income . . . . . \$278.02
	„ balance carried forward . . . . . 76.75
	<u>\$354.77</u>

## TRIAL BALANCE.

## DEBITS.

Cash . . . . .	\$1,442.91
Real Estate . . . . .	156,780.19
Investments . . . . .	131,414.45
Income of Peabody Fund . . . . .	53.51
Income of Richard Frothingham Fund . . . . .	279.27
Income of Savage Fund . . . . .	76.75
Income of Ellis Fund . . . . .	771.82
Coupon Scrip . . . . .	375.00
General account . . . . .	4,029.55
	<u>\$295,223.45</u>

## CREDITS.

Building Account . . . . .	\$103,280.19
Ellis House . . . . .	25,000.00
Appleton Fund . . . . .	12,203.00
Dowse Fund . . . . .	10,000.00
Massachusetts Historical Trust-Fund . . . . .	10,000.00
Peabody Fund . . . . .	22,123.00
Savage Fund . . . . .	6,000.00
Erastus B. Bigelow Fund . . . . .	2,000.00
William Winthrop Fund . . . . .	3,000.00
Richard Frothingham Fund . . . . .	3,000.00
General Fund . . . . .	9,868.56
Anonymous Fund . . . . .	1,941.29
William Amory Fund . . . . .	3,000.00
Lawrence Fund . . . . .	3,000.00
Robert C. Winthrop Fund . . . . .	5,000.00
Waterston Publishing Fund . . . . .	10,000.00
Ellis Fund . . . . .	30,574.71
Income of Appleton Fund . . . . .	1,093.04
Income of William Winthrop Fund . . . . .	159.28
Income of Massachusetts Historical Trust-Fund . . . . .	1,724.32
Income of William Amory Fund . . . . .	1,094.10
Income of E. B. Bigelow Fund . . . . .	173.80
Income of Lawrence Fund . . . . .	239.01
Income of Robert C. Winthrop Fund . . . . .	249.72
Income of Waterston Publishing Fund . . . . .	499.43
Notes Payable . . . . .	30,000.00
	<u>\$295,223.45</u>

The operations of the Society as an organization "to collect, preserve, and communicate" the materials for American history have been seriously embarrassed by the continued loss of income from the two lower stories of the building on Tremont Street. But it was not thought advisable, in view of a probable sale of the estate, to make a lease which might interfere

with the plans of a purchaser; and the question of a sale or lease still rests with the Committee to whom the matter was referred. It is expected that an early decision will be reached on this matter, and the future policy of the Society be thereby determined. The income from the invested funds has shown a slight improvement over the preceding year. There is reason to anticipate a further improvement during the next twelve months; and the income of the Ellis Fund, from which nothing has yet been received, will also become available.

During the year the Society has published the long-delayed Historical Index to the Pickering Papers, being the eighth volume of the sixth series of Collections, the cost of which has been charged to the Income of the Appleton Fund. A volume of the Proceedings — volume nine of the second series — has also been published; and it is expected that the tenth volume will be ready in a few months. The cost of both of these volumes has been charged to the General Account. Considerable progress has been made in the preparation of the very important and interesting volume of Bowdoin Papers, for which provision has already been made.

It will be noticed that various sums incident to the purchase of the Fenway Estate have already been charged to the General Account; and future payments of a similar character, until the land is built upon, should be charged to the same account.

CHARLES C. SMITH, *Treasurer*.

Boston, March 31, 1896.

*Report of the Auditing Committee.*

The undersigned, a Committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Treasurer of the Massachusetts Historical Society, as made up to March 31, 1896, have attended to that duty, and report that they find them correctly kept and properly vouched; that the securities held by the Treasurer for the several funds correspond with the statement in his Annual Report; that the balance of cash on hand is satisfactorily accounted for; and that the Trial Balance is accurately taken from the Ledger.

A. LAWRENCE LOWELL, }  
T. JEFFERSON COOLIDGE, } *Committee.*

Boston, April 4, 1896.

Dr. SAMUEL A. GREEN submitted the Report of the Librarian : —

*Report of the Librarian.*

During the past year there have been added to the Library :

Books . . . . .	1228
Pamphlets . . . . .	836
Bound volumes of newspapers . . . . .	62
Unbound volumes of newspapers . . . . .	10
Broadsides . . . . .	27
Maps . . . . .	10
Volumes of maps . . . . .	2
Portfolios of maps . . . . .	21
Bound volumes of manuscripts . . . . .	5
Unbound volumes of manuscripts . . . . .	6
Manuscripts . . . . .	749

In all . . . 2,956

Of the books added, 1,036 have been given, 40 bought, and 152 bound. Of the pamphlets added, 791 have been given, 38 bought, and 7 procured by exchange.

From the income of the Savage Fund, there have been bought 40 volumes, 38 pamphlets, and 2 unbound volumes of newspapers.

From the income of the William Winthrop Fund, 152 volumes, containing 296 pamphlets, have been bound, and 12 volumes repaired.

Of the books added to the Rebellion Department, 25 have been given, and 4 bought ; and of the pamphlets added, 49 have been given, and 4 bought. There are now in this collection 2,138 volumes, 4,763 pamphlets, 804 broadsides, and 105 maps.

In the collection of manuscripts there are 815 volumes, 189 unbound volumes, 75 pamphlets with manuscript notes, and 8,017 manuscripts.

The Library contains at the present time about 39,000 volumes, including files of bound newspapers, the bound manuscripts, and the Dowse Collection. The number of pamphlets, including duplicates, is about 96,652 ; and the number of broadsides, including duplicates, is 3,862.

During the past year there have been taken out 47 books and 5 pamphlets, and all have been returned.

Since the last Annual Meeting Dr. Ellis's library has been received at these rooms. Agreeably to the terms of his will, an inventory of the books was made, though they are not as yet catalogued and placed on the shelves; nor are they included in the present annual enumeration. Owing to the prospect of a removal from this building in the near future, it has been thought best to defer the work of cataloguing, etc., for the present. According to the inventory of his library, there are 5,035 books, and about 2,000 pamphlets including duplicates, among which are many of his own works.

The most important accessions during the year are from the libraries of the late Robert C. Winthrop and the late Richard Frothingham, which were duly mentioned at the meetings in June, October, and February. Another valuable addition is the gift of 44 volumes of bound newspapers from our associate Dr. James F. Rhodes.

Respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL A. GREEN,  
*Librarian.*

Boston, April 9, 1896.

The Report of the Cabinet-keeper was then read:—

*Report of the Cabinet-keeper.*

The Cabinet-keeper respectfully reports that there has been no change in the condition of the Cabinet during the past year. There is the same want of space for the best arrangement and classification of the various articles, and there is the same impossible opportunity to display its valuable contents to the public, without whose aid and approbation it is almost hopeless to expect accessions.

Were we obliged to remain under the present crowded condition of this building for even a few years, the future of the Cabinet would be forlorn indeed. But such prospect is qualified by a present hope, which promises a great relief and satisfaction in a new building of the near future, where it is imperatively demanded that there be provided floor and wall spaces sufficient to arrange properly, and exhibit for the in-

formation of the public, the principal treasures of the Society, which have been concealed too long. .

A neighboring Society much younger than ours has manifested such method and care in the arrangement and exhibition of its gifts and loans of historic articles as to attract the attention of many citizens of Boston and vicinity, who have undoubtedly diverted to such Society many interesting and valuable articles which ought to have had a resting-place in our Cabinet.

At the meeting of this Society held in October, 1895, the Cabinet-keeper reported at length upon the accessions derived from the bequest of Rev. Dr. Ellis and from other sources. Since that date there have been received the following gifts, viz. : —

Eight engravings, John Adams, James Madison, and James Monroe, after Stuart; Washington Irving after G. S. Newton; "A View of the City of Boston," drawn on the spot by Governor Pownall in 1757; the North Battery, Boston, by Paul Revere; the "Retreat of the British from Concord," by James Smillie after Chappel, and the "Battle of Bunker's Hill," by Phillibrown after Chappel, both published by Johnson and Fry, New York, 1859. Three colored lithographs, the "Old Warehouse — Dock Square, Boston," by L. Prang & Co., two copies; and "The Battle at Bunker's Hill, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1775," published in 1875, by C. Frank King, Boston, after a drawing by Henry A. Thomas. Two heliotype reproductions, a "View of the Attack on Bunker's Hill, with the burning of Charles Town, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1775"; and "An Exact View of the Late Battle at Charlestown, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1775," by B. Romans. Given by Thomas G. Frothingham.

A silver shield or badge, being a part of some ornament used by a member of a colored company called "The Bucks of America," bearing the device of the company and the initials "M. W." Given by William S. Appleton.

A medal made of aluminum struck to commemorate the meeting of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, Boston, July, 1895. Given by Charles Augustus Fernald.

A pencil drawing made by George Edward Head in 1847, showing a view of Beacon Street looking toward the State House from a point west of Charles Street. Given by Mr. Head.

Respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL F. McCLEARY,  
*Cabinet-keeper.*



Mr. JAMES F. RHODES read the Report of the Committee to examine the Library and Cabinet, as follows:—

*Report of the Committee on the Library and Cabinet.*

The Committee on Library and Cabinet report that they examined the Library and Cabinet March 18th, assisted by the Librarian and Cabinet-keeper. They find the Society under the shadow of a moving-day, and with that prospect in view it would be idle to formulate a new policy were a new policy needed. They discussed with the Cabinet-keeper his ideas of the arrangement of the treasures under his charge in the future new building, and think that, when the proper time arrives, there will be little difficulty in arriving at a correct plan.

In regard to the Library the suggestions and recommendations of several committees of former years should be carefully considered when the time of leaving this building shall come. That quality not quantity, that specialization instead of universality, should be our aim, seems to be agreed. Differences of opinion, if any there be, arise in the application of this general principle. It may be depended on that books which the Society purchases are such as are suitable for an historical library. The question arises whether there should be any limitation as to what the Society should receive or retain of gifts coming from individuals, or of public documents which reach us, in the usual manner of distribution, from the national government, the State, or the city.

Certain books which the Society now owns should obviously be disposed of, as to which the Librarian, your Committee, and we believe the Council, are at one. Already, under the direction of the Council, the Librarian has disposed of material. Your Committee would recommend the continuance of such a policy, and would also recommend that the Society sell or give away many of its United States public documents. We should except the Congressional Globe and Record, and the Annals of Congress; the War of the Rebellion, Official Records of the Union and Confederate armies; the Report of the Committee on the Conduct of the War; volumes containing Diplomatic Correspondence; and many reports of Congressional Committees which have become part of the legis-

lative history of the country. But there are a mass of United States documents which are likely to be of little or no use to members of the Society that it would be well to dispose of as opportunity offered. Moreover, a complete set may always be found in other libraries of the city.

Accessibility to books in a library of this kind is desirable. Your Committee cannot speak too highly of the arrangement of the works relating to our Civil War, and the room devoted to this purpose appears to be a convenient place for study. The books which it contains, and the government publications at hand, make an admirable collection; and were some of the more recent works on the subject added, it would be a substantially complete library of printed material relating to the War of the Secession.

JAMES FORD RHODES,  
WM. R. THAYER,  
FRANCIS C. LOWELL.

In the absence of Rev. Dr. Slafter, the Report of the Nominating Committee was presented by Mr. R. C. WINTHROP, JR., who explained that the Committee had not anticipated being called upon to deal with any other vacancies than those regularly occurring among the members at large of the Council; but they had found, to their great regret, that the engagements of Professor Goodwin compel him to retire from the office of Corresponding Secretary after only two years' service, as it is inconvenient for him to attend the meetings of the Council. The following list was then elected by ballot:—

*For President.*

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

*For Vice-Presidents.*

JUSTIN WINSOR.

SAMUEL ABBOTT GREEN.

*For Recording Secretary.*

EDWARD JAMES YOUNG.

*For Corresponding Secretary.*

HENRY W. HAYNES.

*For Treasurer.*

CHARLES CARD SMITH.

*For Librarian.*

SAMUEL ABBOTT GREEN.

*For Cabinet-keeper.*

SAMUEL FOSTER McCLEARY.

*For Members at Large of the Council.*

ARTHUR LORD.

EDWARD L. PIERCE.

THORNTON K. LOTHROP.

ABBOTT LAWRENCE LOWELL.

CHARLES R. CODMAN.

On motion of Rev. HENRY F. JENKS, the thanks of the Society were voted to the retiring members of the Council.

The PRESIDENT then addressed the Society as follows:—

Gentlemen, Members of the Society, — Some of you doubtless remember that when a year ago I took this chair, as the successor of Dr. Ellis, I intimated a purpose of preparing, and delivering at some not remote day, an address in the nature of a formal inaugural. In this address I had intended to review the past history of the Society, and to offer a résumé of results already accomplished by it. I then further proposed, after considering present conditions and aspects of historical research, to outline a policy to be pursued with a view to maintaining the efficiency, increasing the usefulness, and systematizing the activity of the organization in the future. For entering into such a résumé and attempting such a forecast, the occasion also seemed to me not inopportune, inasmuch as practically the Society is now only just started on its second century; and, with the deaths of Mr. Winthrop and Dr. Ellis chancing so close upon each other, its development has passed into the hands of another generation. How great is the gap thus quietly and almost unconsciously bridged, may be judged by a simple statistical statement: Mr. Winthrop and Dr. Ellis, so long the President and Vice President of the Society, were graduated, respectively, in the years 1828 and 1833; their successors in those positions belong to the classes of 1853 and 1856. As was observed here when we met to pay our last tributes to my predecessor, those dates mark

the difference, historically speaking, between a generation which drew its cast of thought and modes of treatment from the teachings inspired by the Mosaic dispensation, and a generation which draws them from the methods and science of Darwin.

Thus the occasion is at least suggestive. And I will at once admit that there are thoughts connected with it interesting at least to me, and entitled perhaps to more or less consideration on your part, which I had intended before this to present as best I might; but, on the threshold of preparation, I found myself confronted with other problems of a less inviting but a more immediate and pressing character. They were, it is true, in the nature of preliminaries; but none the less they are, so far as this Society is concerned, essential preliminaries, and more careful reflection only served to convince me that, if any really substantial and satisfactory results are to be secured, those preliminaries must be disposed of, and satisfactorily disposed of, before the larger and much more attractive field of inquiry can profitably be entered upon. I refer, of course, to the material and financial issues connected with the Society's present position.

I will add that, upon the whole, I also felt that the other and more remote, even if in the end much the most important, matters of consideration might just as well be deferred to a subsequent time. It is to be remembered that, though as a Society we are fairly across the threshold of our second century, the year 1900, though not yet here, is close at hand. If any conceivable time is appropriate for a backward glance, as well as for an effort to peer into the future, it is at the point where two centuries merge; and especially will this be the case when, so few years hence, and between the sunset of one day and another day's sunrise, the momentous nineteenth century ends, and the yet more momentous-to-be twentieth begins. So far as our Society is concerned, I apprehend also that the whole of the short intervening period will be found hardly to suffice for the disposition of those material and financial preliminaries to which I have referred.

Recurring, therefore, to the consideration of our immediate present, I will say at the outset that questions of habitation, locality, and finance have occupied the anxious attention of the Council throughout the whole of the past year, and the

position of the Society in these respects should now, in my judgment, be clearly set forth. And in the first place it may, I submit, be laid down as a fundamental proposition that learned societies constitute no exception to the rule which applies to political and business organizations, — to States as well as to individuals, — the fundamental rule that sufficient means and a sound financial condition are essential to success and real usefulness. In the case of societies like ours, money cannot of course make good a lack in the community of education or of intellectual activity; but the existence of these assumed, — and over these we here can exercise but slight control, — it follows that the results attained are to a large extent a question of the material means at the disposal of those engaged in the work of attaining. Without adequate resources an historical society is, in hardly less degree than a manufacturing company, crippled at every step. The foundation must, in the nature of things, precede the superstructure; and before formulating any plans of future work and activity, financial conditions must be fully considered and adequate provision made.

In accordance with our established custom, the regular annual report of the Treasurer has to-day been submitted, and is now in the hands of the members. It merits a study more than ordinarily careful. Briefly stated, it appears that the Society now owns real estate, including this, the Tremont Street building, and the Ellis building-site recently purchased at the West End, valued at \$225,000. The West-End building-site is subject to a mortgage of \$30,000. The Society further holds personal property in the form of stocks and bonds which stand on its books at a valuation of \$131,000, but which, bought at a time of higher prices, is, at current market quotations, worth about \$126,500. It enjoys, therefore, a total accumulated endowment, over and above all debts, of some \$320,000.

In addition to the above, the Sibley and Waterston bequests, estimated together at over \$160,000, will, under certain restrictions, become available at some future period which cannot now be very remote.

An Historical Society such as ours, endowed to this extent, cannot be said to be otherwise than handsomely provided for. But, as is usually the case, our needs have, in the passage of

time and of the changes worked thereby, grown with our means, and it so chances that an entire readjustment of affairs is at this time forced upon us by a fortuitous concurrence of circumstances. It cannot be deferred.

It will be observed, on examination of the Treasurer's report, that though the accumulated endowment of the Society reaches the large sum already stated (\$320,000), its available income derived from investments during the last year has been only \$4,936.83, a considerable portion of which (\$3,500) was from securities representing funds the income of which can only be devoted to specific purposes. The entire income from what may be called the free maintenance fund of the Society was, therefore, during the last year but \$1,500; and it is of course almost unnecessary to add that this inconsiderable sum did not suffice to meet the requirements of the organization when reduced to the most economical basis, much less to leave any balance, as in former years, to be passed to the credit of our accumulating endowment. This unsatisfactory condition of affairs, so far as current and available revenue is concerned, is due to circumstances connected with the building we are now in, to which the attention of the Society was called at our meeting in October last, but which will now bear repetition. This Tremont Street estate, it will be remembered, represents a book investment of \$102,000, and a market value in excess of half of the Society's entire endowment. The building, erected immediately after the great Boston fire of November, 1872, was specially designed for the use of this Society, and for occupation by certain departments of the County of Suffolk. It was not planned, nor is it adapted, for general business purposes. The County of Suffolk, in advance of construction, took a fifteen years' lease of the two lower stories, agreeing to pay therefor an annual rental of \$9,000. This lease expired on the 1st of January, 1888; but the County continued in occupancy as a tenant-at-will until October 1, 1894, when its departments were removed to the new Court House in Pemberton Square. During the last year of occupation by the County, the rent (\$9,000) received from the leased premises constituted seventy per cent of the available income of the Society derived from investments. The premises occupied by the County have since remained vacant for the reason, already stated, that, constructed for a special

use, they are not adapted to general business purposes ; and to adapt them to such purposes, even in so far as that is practicable, would involve a large expenditure of doubtful expediency. The Society has therefore already sustained a serious loss from this cause, and the amount of that loss is constantly increasing. With seventy per cent of our whole available income cut off, we are for the time being financially crippled.

As I have said, the tenancy of the County of Suffolk terminated in October, 1894, and the death of our late President, Dr. Ellis, occurred in the following December. So far as our Society was concerned, the two events had a close bearing on each other, and combined to precipitate questions which might otherwise have been for some time deferred. But it so chanced that just when this building ceased to be available as a steady source of revenue, provision came to us under the will of Dr. Ellis for the purchase of a new building-site elsewhere, and in a locality which in view of the growth and development of the city was in many respects better adapted to our needs than this.

Under these circumstances the course to be pursued hardly seemed open to question. The alternative was obvious and apparently unavoidable. It lay between a costly and unsatisfactory remodelling of this Tremont Street building, on the one hand, with the chance of subsequently securing a satisfactory tenant for the two lower stories, while the Society, holding its new building-site unimproved at a considerable annual cost, remained for an indefinite period in its present quarters ; or, on the other hand, taking steps to dispose wholly of the present building, to erect a new one on the Ellis site, and thus make now a change which, for well-understood reasons connected with our work and collections, could in any event be deferred only for a limited number of years. It was therefore decided, after full and careful consideration, to make the change now ; and to this work the attention of those having the affairs and interests of the Society more especially in charge has during the past year been almost exclusively devoted.

Substantial progress has been made. In the first place, the course to be pursued had to be definitely decided upon. This was done, reported to the Society, and its approval of the course recommended was obtained at the meeting of October

10th last. The bequests under the will of Dr. Ellis had next to be considered, and these presented questions not free from difficulty. The bequests were in some degree conditional, and the purpose of the testator had to be considered and carried out to the letter as well as in spirit. How best to do this could not, for reasons with which the Society is familiar (*supra*, pp. 150-155) be decided at once, and it was not until a year after Dr. Ellis's death that all difficulties were overcome, and both bequests — that of the house in Marlborough Street and the legacy in money — converted into cash were applied towards carrying out the proposed change. Preliminary plans and approximate estimates of the cost of a new building were then prepared, and a financial scheme arranged; and of the latter I propose to speak more at length presently. It only then remained to dispose of this building. The Committee having the matter in charge had confidently hoped to be able at this meeting to report that a satisfactory sale of the entire property had been effected to the City of Boston. The expediency of the purchase by the city is so manifest that, for public considerations, those having the matter in charge on the part of the Society have been most anxious to bring it about. Did private interests control the large city holdings — the City Hall, old Court House, and Probate Building — lying between School and Court Streets, and abutting on this estate, the increased value which would be given to the whole by securing through this property an opening on Tremont Street, would leave no question as to the course to be pursued. In order to merge it with the others, this property would be acquired at any reasonable cost. After looking the situation over, the present Mayor at once took this obviously rational business view of the matter, and he has recommended the appropriation of the money necessary to effect the purchase by the city. There the matter now rests. Should the recommendation of the Mayor be followed and the purchase made, the question before the Society will be solved at an early day. Should other considerations prevail, and a sale to the city not be effected, it will become necessary either to dispose of the estate in other quarters, or to remodel the present building in whole or in part, and let it for a term of years. The Society cannot of course continue to hold it in its present untenanted condition.



The financial arrangements involved in the proposed change remain to be fully considered and provided for. At the stated meeting of the Society in May last, this matter was somewhat considered and preliminary estimates were submitted. Looking at the complete future needs of the Society and providing for its more fully developed activities, it was suggested that four separate funds would be needed :—

A Building Fund of . . . . .	\$250,000
A Maintenance Fund of . . . . .	250,000
A Library Fund of . . . . .	100,000
A Publishing Fund of . . . . .	100,000
Total . . . . .	<hr/> \$700,000

In view of the fact that a sale of this estate to the city would probably necessitate the immediate removal of the Society with all its collections to temporary quarters until a new Society Building on the Ellis site could be made ready for occupancy, the two funds the condition of which has more especially occupied attention have been those for Building and Maintenance. The other two funds, those for the Library and to carry on our publications, admit of economies, and can wait, as was stated in May last, “with a reasonable assurance that, through future bequests, adequate provision for them will be forthcoming.” At the same time it was further said that “nothing in the way of building can possibly be done until the Sibley bequests become available” on the death of Mrs. Sibley. Though this statement was made only eleven months ago, events have since then moved rapidly, and the problem now is how to do that at once which was then pronounced practically impossible.

The estimates submitted in May last were general only, and made in advance of the preparation of even preliminary plans. Since then such plans have been submitted, and approximate estimates made upon them. In May it was assumed that the proposed new building would cost \$250,000, the site being included in that amount. The site has since been purchased at a cost of \$55,000, leaving \$195,000 of the May estimate for the construction of the building. I have since, for my own satisfaction, carefully gone over the original figures, and with, I regret to say, the usual results. They do not seem to me

to have been sufficiently liberal. As now advised, I should feel disposed to place the ultimate cost of the site and a completed fire-proof building upon it, furnished and in all respects adequate to the future needs of our Society, at \$300,000, or \$50,000 above the amount then suggested. The building itself, with its furniture and ultimate ornamentation, would then, apart from its site, be estimated at \$245,000. On the other hand, and on this point I wish to be explicit, it is not necessary, nor, in my judgment, would it be desirable even if it was either proper or prudent, that the building should be completely finished, ornamented, and furnished at the cost of the Society, or that the whole of this large amount should be spent at once. On the contrary, I submit that, by pursuing this course, the best results would not be secured. The wiser plan would be now to design the complete building; to finish at once only so much of it, and that in such a way, as would suffice for the immediate accommodation of the Society; and to leave the rest to be done hereafter and by degrees. The Society would then be far better accommodated than it now is, and, judging by the experience of the past, to complete the work it could safely depend on the falling in of legacies already made to it, and on additional future gifts and bequests. Indeed, the pursuing this course holds out an inducement to liberality, whether posthumous or in advance of death. Take for instance the entrance, the staircase, or the great hall of the proposed building. Each of these in the shape ultimately proposed is a costly ornamented structure of elaborate design, the supplying of which out of the resources of the Society would not, in my judgment, be justifiable; and on this point I do not wish to be misunderstood. It is said that all things come to him who waits; and if this is true of the individual, it is far more true of a society like ours. Any plan of construction and method of ornamentation we may adopt, should, I submit, however simple at the outset, not only admit of very great development, but should invite it. The cost of this, or of much of it, is included in the estimate I have given; but for the immediate use of the Society, the building can be neatly finished, in a temporary but serviceable manner, at greatly reduced expense, and yet in a way to serve every immediate purpose. In this form it would do its work, while the Society awaits the development of events; nor is it in any

way improbable that the mere fact of incompleteness will from time to time induce wealthy and public-spirited members to complete hall or stairway or entrance as their private contribution to a public work. The desire, and the very laudable desire, to leave memorials in this way is, as we all know, largely on the increase in our community, and it is no more than reasonable for a Society such as ours to count somewhat upon it. The last few years have, it is true, not been propitious for liberal giving; but a change in this respect may be safely anticipated, and it is to be remembered that in the single year 1894, a year of great financial stress, the Society was the recipient of bequests amounting to not less than \$75,000.

Begun on this basis, the proposed building can, it is believed, be finished so as to answer every immediate Society requirement for \$140,000. The site (\$55,000) is already provided. So far as the question of immediate construction is concerned, the problem is, therefore, the comparatively simple one of providing from the Society's various funds the sum of \$140,000 without in so doing crippling its general resources. Should the Tremont Street property be sold to the city at the price proposed, to wit, \$200,000, the difficulty would at once be solved, as the amount needed (\$140,000) could be taken in part (\$100,000) from the selling price, and in part (\$40,000) anticipated from the Sibley bequest by means of a mortgage on the new building, leaving a balance of over \$100,000 derived from the sale of the Tremont Street estate in our treasury the income from which could be applied to maintenance.

The Maintenance Fund presents greater difficulties. Adequately to meet the needs of the Society in the proposed building in its finished form, and to pay mortgage interest (\$3,200 per annum), would, it is estimated, call for an annual expenditure of not less than \$15,000. The fund the income of which is applicable to maintenance does not now exceed \$45,000, to which is to be added the Ellis fund (\$30,000), and the balance, say \$100,000, of the money received from the sale of the Society's present Tremont Street building, making a total of \$175,000. From this might possibly be derived an income of nearly \$9,000 per annum. To it could be added the annual fees received from our membership, estimated at \$900, making a total of \$10,000.

As, even on the most economical basis, the cost of annual maintenance cannot be reduced below \$12,000, there would remain under this head a deficit of at least \$2,000, and more probably \$3,000, per annum to be made good from other sources. This may be supplied through a rental to be derived from leasing a portion of the proposed building to some other Society of a character similar to this; for the building on the plan proposed must almost necessarily be larger than this Society now requires for its own immediate use. Or if no such joint tenancy could at the outset be arranged, some plan might not improbably be devised, by the aid of members of the Society, through which the income from the Maintenance Fund would be increased for a few years at least, and until the use of a portion of the Sibley Fund would become available. Under any circumstances, however, it is apparent that for some years to come the management of the finances of the Society will call for the exercise of very considerable skill and judgment, while in any event a severe economy will have to be practised. On the other hand, the problem, though difficult, does not seem to be insoluble.

I have thus taken occasion to set the financial situation before the Society as clearly and forcibly as I can. In view of the difficulties presented, the more conservative course naturally suggests itself,—that the Society should remain where it now is for an indefinite period, or at least until the maturing of bequests and the practice of a rigid economy shall have increased the Maintenance Fund to an amount sufficient to justify the increased annual expense incident to a removal. But even were this otherwise practical under present conditions, it would entail a continuance, so far as our collections and usefulness are concerned, of the present situation throughout the active lifetime of the existing membership. The members of the Society fully understand what the present situation is. So long as it continues, we can in no respect do justice to the Society, to its collection of books, works of art, and cabinet; nor is any inducement to liberality held out to our members. In a word, the Society is and must remain thoroughly hampered and restricted. If evidence of this is desired, it can be found in the reports of the Council and the various committees spread on our records through a series of years, and notably those of 1889 and 1893, prepared by Mr.

R. C. Winthrop, Jr., and Dr. Herrick, and that to-day submitted by the Cabinet-keeper. I do not hesitate to give it as my own opinion, reached as a result of a year's careful observation as President of the Society, that to infuse into it new life and activity, and to hold it in its proper position among the increasing number of similar organizations, a complete change and renovation is necessary,—a change and renovation the effecting which would under any circumstances extend over a period of at least five years.

But even if a conservative course of patient waiting and sure though slow accumulation should be decided upon as, on the whole, wisest, such a course would, for reasons already given, be found under existing conditions hardly practicable. This would not have been the case had the lease of the lower premises of the Tremont Street building to the County of Suffolk not expired; but unfortunately, it has expired, and those premises, as I have already stated, are not only unoccupied, but they are not adapted for any profitable occupation. Were the Society now in receipt of an income of \$9,000 a year from this building, a policy of waiting and accumulation, notwithstanding the dangerous loss of prestige it entails, would be my own decided recommendation. I am most reluctant to incur risk of financial embarrassment. Unfortunately, perhaps, but unquestionably, the facts are not as we would have them. Since the lease to the County of Suffolk expired, the Society has already sustained a gross rental loss of \$14,000, and that loss is steadily increasing at the rate of \$25 per diem. To put a stop to it would involve an expensive and most unsatisfactory remodelling of this building, amounting probably to a further loss of at least two years' rent. I cannot, as the result of most careful deliberation, see my way to recommending this course.

A removal, then, at the earliest date that a sale of the Tremont Street estate can be effected seems to be the only alternative. What this involves I have already endeavored to set forth. I can only add that, so far as restriction as to means and the hampering of action due to enforced economies are concerned, the position of the Society after a removal would be in no way worse, and in some ways would be materially better, than apparently it must of necessity be should it continue where and as it now is.

For a Society of the character of this, there is of course no practical method of increasing its revenue except through rigid economy, slow saving, and occasional gifts and bequests. It is not, for instance, desirable that the entrance fee or the annual dues should be made greater, for it is and should always remain our policy to have membership of the Society open to all on conditions, so far as money is concerned, which present no insuperable obstacle to any desirable candidate. There is, however, one source of slow accumulation to which attention may, perhaps, not unprofitably be called. Many years ago, in 1873, a by-law went into effect under which the regular annual dues might be commuted into a life-membership on the payment of \$150. As the sum of \$150 thus paid represents an annual income in perpetuity of seven dollars a year, it is obviously for the interest of the Society that the largest possible number of commutations should be made. It is, on the contrary, somewhat noticeable how few members of the Society have ever availed themselves of this option. They number but ten in twenty-three years. Among these was the late Judge Hoar, who took out his life-membership in a way characteristic of the man; for having paid his annual dues with regularity for over twenty years, in 1887, when he already felt that the end was not very remote, he called on the Treasurer, and stating that he did so for the benefit of the Society, he, a man making his final arrangements for this world, took out a life-membership. That more have not pursued the same course is due probably to the fact that the existence of such a rule is not generally known. Formerly the money derived for life-memberships was passed into the general account of annual receipts, and appeared merely in the surplus income added to the accumulated fund of the Society. Since 1877 a different practice has prevailed, and the receipts from life-membership constitute a fund by themselves, the ever-increasing income of which is free to be applied to any end the needs of the Society may most call for. It constitutes the nucleus of that most desirable thing,—a free fund. I should now further recommend that all future admission fees be also paid into this fund. At best it will accumulate but slowly, though in a quarter of a century it might easily be made to amount to \$20,000; and that sum, had it been accumulated in this way since 1870, would now go far towards solving the present

financial problems of the Society. The income from it would almost make good the threatened deficit in our Maintenance account.

The foregoing statement will, I hope, explain to the Society why I have not hitherto cared, nor now care, to attempt to outline for it any measures of administrative reform, or any definite policy in the line of researches, or new fields of activity in publication. These are not the questions immediately pressing upon us. Before they can be approached the material and financial problems must, as I have said, be met, and in some way disposed of. During the coming year, as during the year just passed, they will call for our undivided attention. I therefore now make but one recommendation. Whatever is done, the results of the action now taken, so far as the Society is concerned, will make themselves felt through a long series of years, probably far outlasting the connection with it of the great body of the present membership. The responsibility attached to action, therefore, is great, and it does not seem right that it should devolve wholly on the Council,—the ordinary executive organization. I would therefore recommend the continuance for another year of the special committee appointed at the stated meeting of October 10th last; and to that end shall close by asking some member to oblige me so far as to offer the following vote:—

*Voted*, That a Committee of three be appointed from the Society at large, to constitute together with the Council a Joint Special Committee to which shall be referred the statement submitted by the President; and that said Joint Special Committee be clothed with full power to decide and act on behalf of the Society on all questions of finance or policy therein discussed.

On motion, the vote suggested by the President was unanimously adopted.

After the adjournment, the members and invited guests were entertained at luncheon by the President, at his house on Gloucester Street.

# MEMOIR

OF

## MARTIN BRIMMER.

BY SAMUEL ELIOT.

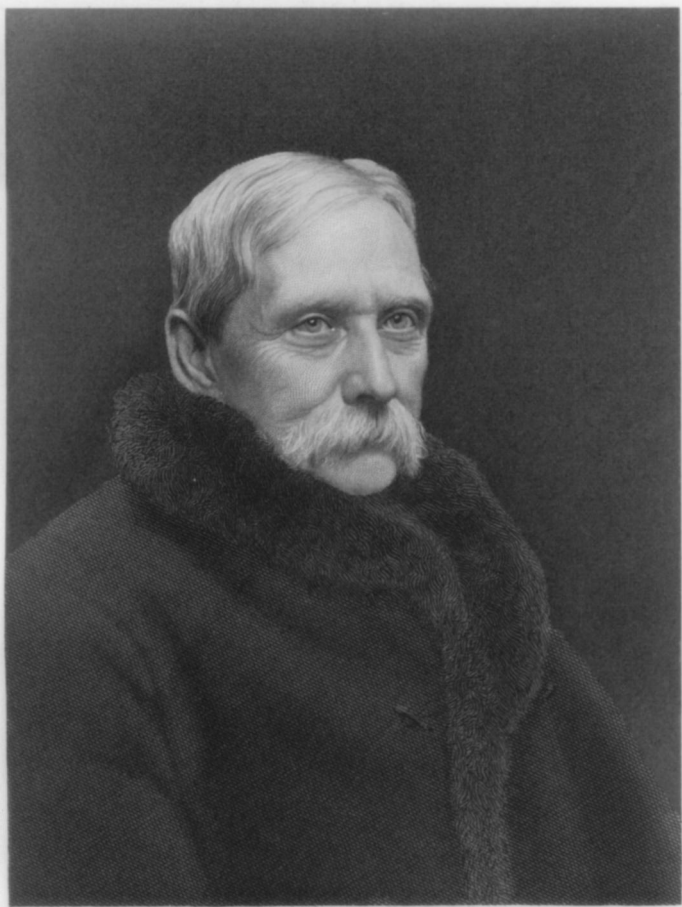
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MARTIN BRIMMER'S death in the midst of a life devoted to the general welfare caused universal sorrow among those who knew him, and very widespread regret among those who had merely heard of him. He proved to have been an object of personal consideration such as a man wins only by rare character and equally rare service. What these were in him we are to attempt to understand.

He was a man of great activity. His mind was always alert, ready to catch at every opportunity of study, effort, and well-doing. Constantly intent on the highest interests of Boston, Massachusetts, and the whole country; drawn towards the letters and arts of Europe and other continents; quick to perceive and earnest to share the whole human heritage,—his intellectual and moral powers were almost unbrokeably in exercise. His administrative faculties were equally active. He knew how to organize and to execute; he knew how to give of his abundance, and to lead others in the same open paths; he was greatly depended on for wise advice, nor did he ever disappoint those who sought his lead. Sensitive, conscientious, and far-seeing, he was a remarkable leader.

At the same time he was quite collected; untouched by the delusion that one's usefulness is in proportion to his agitation; as willing to wait, when necessary, as to push forward; and utterly untempted to wear his heart upon his sleeve, or unveil his inner self to mere lookers-on. His reserve was, indeed, a life-long trait. He was calmness itself, and neither irritation nor folly on the part of a follower or an opponent had any power to disturb him visibly. His rector preached a memo-





*J. A. J. Wilcox; Boston*

*Martin Brimmer ~*

rial sermon on his gentleness, rightly making that his dominant characteristic, — dominant because unassuming, as full of power as of charm. He literally

“Lived the most  
Within the eventual element of calm.”

Born in Boston, December 9, 1829, he was happy in family, in estate, in everything personal except physical vigor, for this was lessened by constitutional delicacy, and a lameness that continued through life, though he was taken to Paris for surgical treatment while yet a child. The sufferings occasioned by this were borne with wonderful fortitude.

He was, above all, happy in qualities inherited from those who went before him. His father, grandfather, and great-grandfather were all of the same name. The great-grandfather, born in Germany, came to this country early in the last century, and married Susanna Sigourney (Séjourné), of Huguenot origin. Our friend's mother, Harriet, was the daughter of James Wadsworth, born in Connecticut, but resident for a great part of his life on his vast and beautiful estate at Geneseo, New York. He was the founder or supporter of normal schools and school-district libraries, and distributed educational books throughout the State. Mr. Brimmer, the father, was also helpful to schools, and had a large edition of a work by Alonzo Potter and George B. Emerson printed at his own expense for circulation among school committees and teachers. The son and grandson of such men could not but serve the cause of education; nor merely that cause. All high concerns, literary and charitable, prison discipline, the elevation of society, were dear to his father and his grandfather, and could not, with his sympathetic nature, but be dear to him. When his father entered upon his second term as Mayor of Boston, in 1844, he spoke of “the importance of enlarged views in relation to the improvements of the city, in extending and beautifying the streets and public places, in a careful attention to internal health and police, in an enlarged system of internal and external intercourse, in a liberal encouragement of charitable and literary institutions, in a far-sighted preparation for the moral, literary, and physical education of the rising generation.” All this sounds almost as if the Mayor were forecasting his son's career. If to this

we add the gentle traditions of the mother, a very lovely woman, who died when her boy was little more than three years old, we have wonderfully promising sources from which the new life was drawn. There were side influences. The boy's uncle, George W. Brimmer, was a man of public spirit. He bought Sweet Auburn, then so called, to save its beauty from destruction; and when he transferred it, as Mount Auburn, at small cost, to the Horticultural Society, it was a service for which this community should not cease to be grateful. Thus, an inheritor of a great spirit as well as of a great fortune, Martin Brimmer bore the stamp of future service upon him.

His boyhood at home was a sober one, but he had companionship at one school after another. He much enjoyed his visits to Geneseo, and there learned that love of nature which brightened his maturer years. He was a well-trained youth of sixteen when he entered the Sophomore Class of Harvard College, and he graduated in 1849. Looking back from his later stages, one would not expect to find him distinguished according to college standards, and he was not. Some time after his degree, he entered a law office in Boston, but without much zeal. His fellow-student in the office says that on a good-natured remonstrance as to the lateness of his appearance, he replied, "You don't know my hours; they begin at twelve, and end at five minutes after twelve." He was left entirely to his own control. His grandfather, who would have exercised great authority over him, died in 1844, and his father in 1847, when he was less than half-way through college. Then came Europe. He went thither, not merely to enjoy himself, but to study, and to follow courses of lectures at the Sorbonne and elsewhere. It is uncertain how far we can venture to take account of him at this period, when he was twenty-three or twenty-four years old. He appears to have been regarded as quite above the average, intent not so much on professional or conventional successes as on a line sure to issue in gain for himself and for others; a young man of large fortune and of large purpose, not yet to be analyzed, much less ticketed, but promising to live to some purpose, if he lived at all.

Then he came home. He seems to have been snapped up at once. A Trustee of the Athenæum at the age of twenty-

four, he began that sort of service early. A year or two later, in 1855 or 1856, probably in the earlier year, when he was but twenty-five, he went on a chivalrous expedition to Kansas. It was the time when the opponents and the supporters of negro slavery were struggling for that Territory as for the soil on which the final result of the long, long struggle was to be achieved. An Emigrant Aid Society had been organized in Massachusetts to send out freemen to settle in the Territory, and to secure it for freedom. To make certain of its work, that it should be for good and not for evil, the Society determined to send one of its directors to inspect the state of things and to report upon it. Martin Brimmer was not a director, or an officer of any kind; but he had probably been a contributor, and now he offered to go with the director to the scene of action. They went together; they travelled in an old army ambulance, slept in strange beds, ate strange meals, and encountered strange adventures. But Brimmer is described by the survivor of the journey as never complaining, never over-excited or over-depressed, a delightful companion, with fairness, cheerfulness, unselfishness, and quickness of apprehension. "The only time," the director writes, "Brimmer referred to his lameness, was on our returning at night from a visit, when, having a ravine and a brook to cross, he said that a very thick-soled shoe was sometimes useful in keeping one's foot dry." On his return home he became a director of the Society in whose interest he had been an adventurous traveller.

In 1860 he was made a State Trustee of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and from that time forward was on all sorts of charitable boards, — the Farm School, the Perkins Institution, the Provident Association, and others, — not serving very long on any of these, but much interested in them all, and a liberal giver to many of them, apart from any official relations. One of the charities he most valued was the Children's Aid, — a fact the more striking because he was himself childless. But this was characteristic of all his helpful relations. He did not enter any of them because of their special claims upon his own experiences or sympathies.

In 1859 he served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and again in the two following years. In 1865 he was in the State Senate. This public life was neither particularly congenial nor uncongenial to him, and he had a good

deal of influence in it, considering his aloofness from what we call politics. It is said of him that he was remarkably keen in scenting a legislative job, and vigorous in baffling it. His health suffered from the bad air of the chambers, and he refused further service in the State House. In 1876 he was a Presidential Elector. Two years later he consented to stand for Congress, saying, as he did so, that he must not be expected to contribute as freely towards election expenses as he had done when not a candidate; and the campaign had not proceeded far, when he told his wife that his chance was over, for he had declined to pledge himself to protection as called upon to do by an influential committee. One cannot wonder that Congress is, and has been, what it is when such a man is refused admittance.

In 1864 he became, at an unusually early age, a Fellow of Harvard College, and, after a few years in the Board of Overseers, he was again elected to the Corporation in 1877, and there continued till his death. He served the College for nearly thirty years in all, and every testimony goes to prove that his service was of the highest order. At once a liberal and a conservative in academic counsels, ready to enter upon new courses as he found them commendable, never adopting any for the sake of change, or resisting any for the sake of repose, always generous in supporting movements which needed money, dignified and serene in argument, perfectly conciliatory towards every associate, he made even those who differed from him content when his will prevailed against theirs. One year, in the President's absence, he presided at Commencement, to the great gratification of the day's graduates and of all the alumni, not one of whom but recognized in him a servant of the University such as, with all its wealth of service, it has rarely had. "The Corporation record with inexpressible sorrow and sense of loss the death of their honored and beloved associate"; and in this lamentation no loyal son of Harvard can have failed to share.

Only one other public interest rivalled the University in our friend's devotion, and that is the Museum, of which he was the chief founder. In 1869 three friends, one the late Charles C. Perkins, thought it possible to combine the paintings and sculptures, engravings, casts, and other works of art then scattered hereabouts, and make at least a beginning of

an Art Museum. It depended upon enlisting, not only the institutions possessing these collections, but still more the men who would bring them together and build on them as a foundation. The choice of a head and the inducement to him to accept the charge were all important. When Martin Brimmer consented to take the post, and enter upon the long labors it involved, no friend of the enterprise but believed it would succeed. He possessed every qualification, — birth, estate, broad and delicate training, wise judgment, and an absence of self-seeking, a quietness and modesty very exceptional in a man of his position; being indeed, an ideal chief of this or of any other work for the community which he felt called upon to assume. The hopes of those early days were never disappointed. He gave of his fortune, he gave of his learning, he gave of his wisdom; and his neighbors, seeing in him an example which they could follow, a guidance which they could trust, gave also, some of their wealth, some of their poverty, some of their power, some of their weakness, but all in an enthusiasm largely caught from him. Two months more here, and he would have been identified with the Museum for twenty-six years. It is, and will be, his monumental memorial.

His literary and artistic studies have been mentioned. What they were can be gathered in part from his published writings. The principal one of these is a volume on Egypt, which he said his niece and he wrote together to instruct themselves during a journey in that country. "We are amusing ourselves," he informed a correspondent, "by writing a book about Egypt, the conditions and ideas that have governed its history, religion, etc. Since we take turns in furnishing the ideas, and I give the forms and the sentences, and M. supplies the handwriting, you will justly infer that no one but ourselves is likely to understand it. Having sufficiently alarmed you by this statement, I hasten to relieve you by saying that this will be superior to all other books in this, that it will not be printed." Of this, however, he was led to think better, and three years later the volume appeared in a beautiful form. It is a study of deep questions concerning Ancient Egypt, its physical and political conditions, its religion, and its art. "The columns of Karnak . . . give one an impression of massive strength and of human power over matter more striking than one receives from any other building in the world." "The obelisk

is the only aspiring form in Egyptian architecture." "Apart from its size, the Sphinx is one of the greatest of ideal works." "The more we consider the arts and religion of Egypt, the more we are struck with the indigenous character of both, and the more strongly do we feel that both were evolved out of the powerful and yet simple impressions made through uncounted centuries upon a homogeneous people by the great forces and aspects of nature." "The religion was anchored on eternal principles. . . . It had, indeed, one characteristic of a great religion, namely, its many-sidedness." "Apparently polytheistic, . . . the essence of the faith was essentially ideal; the worship of one God exhibiting himself to man in a multiplicity of attributes." These, with many observations on the Egyptian moral law, not here cited, may serve as suggestions of the volume, and explain the respectful interest with which it was received.

Mr. Brimmer printed two addresses in recent years. One, at the dedication of an Art Building at Wellesley College in 1889, shows the importance of studies in art, and unfolds the causes which promote the arts. It contains a tribute to Millet, an artist whom Mr. Brimmer ranked very high, and of whom he was fond of acquiring beautiful examples. The other address was in 1894, at the dedication of an Art Building at Bowdoin College. Of this the governing thoughts are that art is a language, that it is addressed to us, and that if we do not respond, the language has failed by our fault.

This last train of reflection was not unusual with him. He wrote to a friend, "Museums and libraries do something for those who are reaching out; they do not, of themselves, reach in." And again: "I have been reading a little of Green [T. H.], and have increased appetite for more. Is not this condensed truth the lesson which man learns from external nature: 'He finds that it is only what he gives to it that he receives from it, yet by some mysterious affinity it evokes what he has to give, and then it bears witness with his own spirit that what he gives is not his own, but inspired from above'?" This was his love of nature, this his love of art, as each called out his latent powers, broadened and uplifted his course, and made him more and more the perfect man. What he sought for himself, he sought for others; and so all his association with them was ennobled.

One of the administrative matters at the Museum which most engaged him was the Sunday opening; and when that was carried, and the galleries were filled week after week with men, women, and children who could come on no other day, he was satisfied. We must not interpret his calm nature according to our uneasy purposes; but no one entirely of his mind with regard to Sunday admissions could avoid feeling that when they were ordered, the President of the Museum was better pleased with this than with any other measure, even subscriptions or gifts, that had as yet been brought to pass.

His growing interest in the Museum increased his concern in kindred enterprises, such as the Art buildings at Wellesley and Bowdoin Colleges, the Museum at Norwich, Connecticut, and especially the Archæological Institute, and the American School at Athens. In all such undertakings he was constantly appealed to for the help which he always gave, whether intellectual or financial. These labors may be grouped together; and as we thus consider them, the tribute of the Museum Trustees applies to them all, — “He was one of the few who shape and maintain the best ideals of the community.”

Nor was he absorbed in what may be called ideal matters. When the immediate necessities of losers by the Boston fire of 1872 had been met, a trust for the relief of sufferers from injuries at the fire and of their families was created, and Martin Brimmer was the first on the roll of trustees. When the public schools were threatened by a proscriptive movement against Roman Catholic School-Committee members and even teachers, he sprang to the rescue, took part in meetings and in public correspondence, and waxed so unusually fervent as to call the fanatical party “the enemy.” He was much concerned after this in securing better nominations for the School Board. The decline of this body in character, collective and individual, was much lamented by him, and for several years he endeavored by private and disinterested conferences to propose to the political bodies such names as they might accept with advantage even to partisanship. One of the very last meetings he could have attended was to this end; and though his impaired health prevented him from any laborious exertion, the moral strength of his co-operation was invaluable.



We have now passed over his public career as well as our limits allow. His private life cannot be described with any justice, but it must be touched upon. His childhood was spent among his elders, — father, grandfather, uncles, and aunts, — and could not but be serious. School, college, and travel were more enlivening, and society made him very welcome. His marriage in 1860 to Miss Marianne, daughter of Henry Timmins, was a happy event to him, and to all who cared most for him. His homes in Beacon Street and at Pride's Crossing were seats of refinement and hospitality. Nowhere in our neighborhood were strangers more generously or more gracefully entertained. As a host he shone by his simplicity, as well as by his power to converse with every guest within his doors. He was especially engaging as a fellow-traveller. Phillips Brooks wrote from London in 1883, "I left the Brimmers at Biarritz. . . Mr. Brimmer has been the most charming company." Intercourse with him was the more attractive because of the impression that beneath the quiet surface there was untold depth.

Some signs of his sense of humor have appeared in quotations here. Let us make room for one or two more. He visited Bar Harbor in 1884; and while gratified by his social reception, and appreciating to the full the "delightful things" "Nature has to show," he was struck by the idiosyncrasy of the place. "As far as I can make it out, it is an attempt to get Newport, a White Mountain House, and the Adirondacks inside of every twenty-four hours." From Egypt in 1888: "When I was in the East, years ago, I had ridden many a mile on that beast [the Camel], and I was pleased now to assure myself that he was as disagreeable as I remembered him. When he walks, you wish he would trot; and when he trots, you wish he would walk again. But one forgot the camel in the beauty of the ride." His pleasure in story-telling or in story-hearing is vivid in our recollections of him; and when his ordinarily grave expression was transformed into laughter, it was a genuine gayety. But the lingering association with him is of the variety and freshness of his subjects. One who would seem to have had little in common with him speaks of constant surprise on meeting him at the evidences of recent and serious thought or reading.

He was a parishioner of Trinity Church, which he served as

vestryman and delegate to the Diocesan Convention. In the Convention of 1891 he bestirred himself to secure the election of his then rector, Dr. Brooks, to the bishopric of Massachusetts. Between these two there was deep and manifold sympathy, and their memories are now blended among the best traditions of Trinity Church. Mr. Brimmer was a model layman in many respects, and in none more than in his consistent magnanimity.

He had his trials and his sorrows. The orphan children of his wife's brother were almost as his own sons and daughters. One of them, a nephew of great promise, was early called away. Another, a niece to whom he was deeply attached, died after an illness during which his anxieties had not been concealed; and from the poignant grief that followed, some of his friends thought that he never recovered. He was more than once alarmingly ill during late years; and when the final weeks of suffering came, and every hope of recovery vanished, he died without protracted struggle, on January 14, 1896. He lives on, as such men do, and will still be remembered after all his immediate friends are gone.

“Lofty designs must close in like effects :

Loftily lying,

Leave him — still loftier than the world suspects,

Living and dying.”